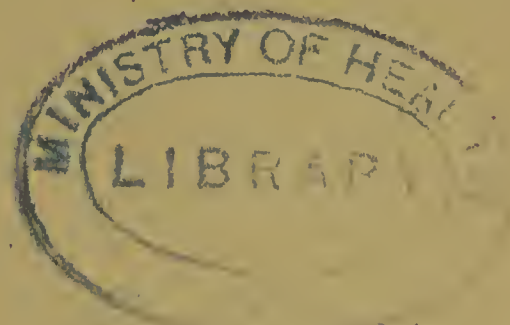


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WHICKHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER,
1953

SWALWELL :
A. A. Fletcher & Son, Ltd., General Printers, Foundry Lane,
1955.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
WHICKHAM,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Whickham Urban District Council:*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1953.

Dr. Thos. L. Kelly, M.B., B.S., was part time Medical Officer of Health during the year of this report but through ill health was unable to undertake its completion.

I took over duty as full time Medical Officer of Health on 1st January, 1955 and have undertaken the task on his behalf. I am much obliged to those members of the staff who have assisted me in so doing.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres: 6,213.

Population—1951 Census: 23,116.

Population—Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1953: 22,830.

Number of inhabited houses:

Council, 1,881; Others, 4,972; Total, 6,853.

No. of Premises other than houses: 483.

Rateable Value: £105,597.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £389.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE AREA

The boundaries remain as formerly, i.e., to the North the River Tyne; to the West, the River Derwent; to the East, the County Borough of Gateshead and the Rural District of Chester-le-Street; to the South, the Stanley Urban District. The Area is divided into four Wards.

1—Dunston: This Ward has the largest population of the District and is both residential and industrial. The population finds its employment at Flour Mills, Soap Works, Paint Manufacture, Pre-cast Concrete Manufacture, Saw Mills, Electricity Generating Station and in Shipping.

2—Swalwell: The chief industries are Coal-mining, Engineering, Foundry-work, Brick-making, and Metal-working. A screening plant used in connection with open-cast coal workings is situated in the northerly part of the Ward.

3—Whickham: Is semi-rural in character, and is essentially residential. There is one coal-mine in the Ward. The population finds its employment outside the Ward.

4—Marley Hill: This Ward is very scattered and rural. Coal-mining is the only industry; there are four collieries in the Ward.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The average monthly number of unemployed shows a small decrease of 8 as compared with the figure for 1952. The following information has been supplied by Mr. Fishpool, Manager of the Local Employment Exchange at Dunston.

YEAR	AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT	YEAR	AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
1944	50	1949	160
1945	160	1950	165
1946	200	1951	118
1947	160	1952	106
1948	196	1953	98

The number of unemployed in December, 1953, was 104, and of this number 50% were considered to be unfit for normal industrial employment due to physical defects or their inclusion in the older age groups.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of births registered was 366 and the natural increase of population (i.e., excess of births over deaths) 120. There were 10 still-births.

The crude birth rate was 16.03 per 1,000 population as compared with 15.79 for 1952. Comparison tables are given.

Live Births - Whickham U.D. Area.						
	1952			1953		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	180	168	348	190	164	354
Illegitimate	5	7	12	5	7	12
Total	185	175	360	195	171	366
Birth Rate	15.79 per 1,000 population			16.03 per 1,000 population		

Still Births - Whickham U.D. Area.						
	1952			1953		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	6	9	3	6	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	3	6	9	4	6	10
Still Birth Rate	0·39 per 1,000 population			0·44 per 1,000 population		

1953 - Still and Live Births - Whickham, compared with Country generally. Rates per 1,000 population.					
	Whickh'm	County Durham	England and Wales	160 Cty. Boro's and Grt. Towns inclu'g London	160 Smaller T's Resident pop'n 25,000 - 50,000
Live Births	15·87	17·70	15·50	17·00	15·70
Still Births	00·44	00·45	00·35	00·43	00·34

Deaths

The total number of deaths during 1953 was 246, and the death rate 10.77 as compared with 11.40 for 1952.

Infantile Mortality

There were 9 infantile deaths recorded (6 male and 3 female), giving an infantile mortality rate of 24.6 as compared with 30.55 last year.

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths were recorded, giving a maternal mortality rate of 0.00 as compared with 0.00 for 1952. The figure for England and Wales for the year 1953 was 0.76 and for Durham County 0.9.

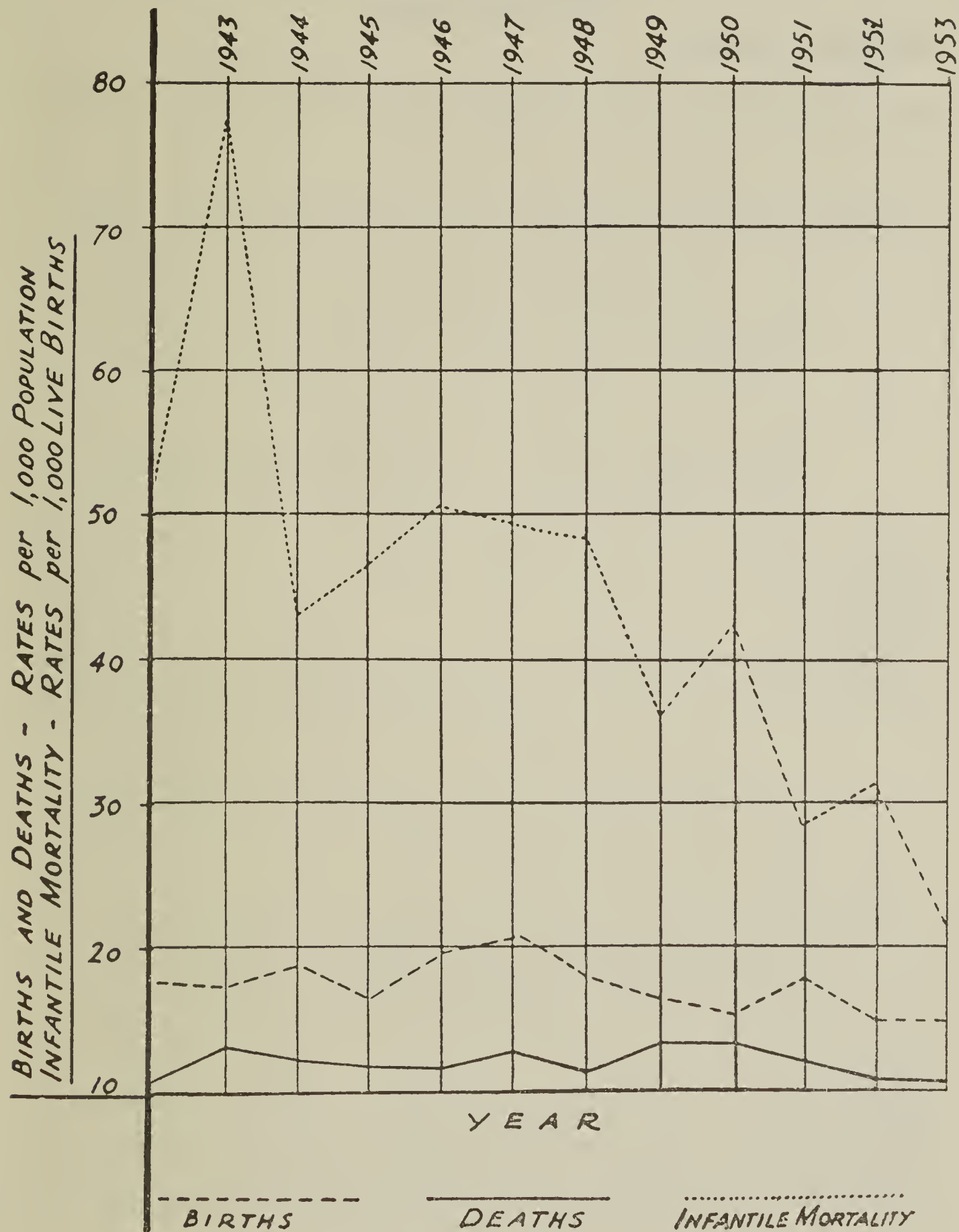
**THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF
DEATH DURING 1953.**

CAUSES OF DEATH				MALES	FEMALES
1	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			1	—
2	Tuberculosis (Other)			2	—
3	Syphilitic Disease			—	1
4	Diphtheria			—	—
5	Whooping Cough			—	—
6	Meningo Coccac Infection			—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis			—	—
8	Measles			—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases			—	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach			11	2
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...			8	4
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast			—	2
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus			—	5
14	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms			12	9
15	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia... ..			—	—
16	Diabetes			—	1
17	Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System			22	17
18	Coronary Disease, Angina			33	7
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease			2	3
20	Other Heart Diseases			10	10
21	Other Circulatory Diseases			5	2
22	Influenza			1	—
23	Pneumonia			4	—
24	Bronchitis			10	6
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...			2	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum			6	1
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea			1	—
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis			2	—
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate			1	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...			—	—
31	Congenital Malformations			1	1
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases			18	8
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents			3	—
34	All Other Accidents			2	2
35	Suicide			3	—
36	Homicide and Operations of War			3	—
				163	83

1953 DEATHS WHICKHAM U.D. COMPARED WITH REST OF COUNTRY

	Whickham	County Durham	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, inc. London	160 Smaller Towns Resident population 25000 - 50000
Deaths from all causes per 1,000 population ...	10·8	11·0	11·4	12·2	11·3
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	24·6	31·0	26·8	30·8	24·3

GRAPH SHOWING RISE AND FALL IN BIRTH AND DEATH RATES AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES 1943 - 1953



SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the public Health Laboratories, Newcastle upon Tyne. This Government service is free of cost to practitioners and the Council.

Bacteriological Examinations from Whickham District, 1953.

Year 1953	Blood		Faeces						Urine					
	Serological Examina's Enteric Fever		Cul're	Ent'ic	Dysen tery	Food Poisoning Salmon ella, T. Murium	Organ isms		Ent'ic	Organ isms		T.B.		
	Positive	Negative					No. of Specimens	Positive		No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens
1st Quarter	1					21	12							
2nd Quarter							9	2				10	5	
3rd Quarter							88	29				4	1	
4th Quarter							41	18		2		4		
Total	1						21	12	138	49		2	18	6

Year	Swabs (Throat, Nasal, Ear)							Sputum		Miscellaneous		Total	
	Diphtheria (Culture)	Diphtheria (Virulence)	Haemo-lytic Strepto-cocci	Vincen't's Angina	Organ's	T.B.	T.B. ★	T.B.	T.B. ★	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive
	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Persons	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens	Positive	No. of Specimens
1953													
1st Qtr.	1				9	4	5		45	7	12	1	105 31
2nd Qtr.	1				5	2	3		63	4	9	1	104 15
3rd Qtr.	2	2			2	1	5	2	68	13	6		176 48
4th Qtr.					3	2	1		67	9	14	5	132 34
Total	4	2			19	9	14	2	243	33	41	7	517 128

★ Specimens taken at Whickham Chest Clinic.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance services are provided by the Durham County Council. Included in this service is the transport of cases of infectious disease to Sheriff Hill Isolation Hospital.

Nursing in the Home

The administration of District Nursing comes within the province of the Durham County Council. The Home Help service is also available and there is a constant demand for assistance in view of the difficulty in obtaining admission of cases of chronic illnesses to hospital at the present time.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Facilities for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, together with sun-ray, maternity and child welfare, and dental treatment, are made available by Durham County Council at various centres within or adjacent to the area.

Hospital Accommodation

(a) **Infectious Diseases.** All cases requiring isolation are referred to Sheriff Hill Isolation Hospital.

(b) **Tuberculosis.** Provision is made for the hospital treatment of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in various sanatoria within the Counties of Durham and Northumberland. There is also a chest clinic situated at Whickham for the supervision of domiciliary cases. Norman's Riding Infectious Diseases Hospital is now used solely as a Sanatorium for females and children. At the end of the year persons having pulmonary tuberculosis were being admitted to Sanatoria very shortly after diagnosis was established. This speedy primary treatment gives patients a much greater expectation of recovery and complete cure.

(c) **General.** The Royal Victoria Infirmary and the General Hospital, Newcastle, and the Bensham and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, Gateshead, receive the majority of medical and surgical cases from the district. A convalescent home at Wylam is available for patients after hospital treatment.

Provision for the treatment of minor surgical cases is also available at the District War Memorial Cottage Hospital, Whickham.

(d) **Midwifery and Gynaecology.** Of the midwifery and gynaecological cases sent to hospital, most find their way to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle, the gynaecological department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, the Bensham Hospital, Gateshead, or the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead.

(e) **Venereal Disease.** Patients may be referred by their doctors to the Venereal Disease Clinic at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 532 as compared with 613 in 1952. The details were as follows:

DISEASE	NO. OF CASES		REMARKS
	1953	1952	
Scarlet Fever	50	30	
Whooping Cough	109	187	
Diphtheria	—	—	
Measles	306	331	
Acute Pneumonia	16	19	
Meningo-coccal Infection	—	3	
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	14	
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	
Dysentery	24	15	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	1952 One case confirmed one not confirmed
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	
Smallpox	—	—	
Para-typhoid fevers	—	3	1952 Two cases confirmed, one not confirmed.
Enteric Fever	—	—	
Food poisoning	8	4	
Erysipelas	3	2	
Chicken Pox	11	1	
Malaria	—	1	
Totals	532	613	

Incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Tuberculosis in the Whickham Area

A graph is given on page 18 showing the incidence of these diseases over the past ten years.

Diphtheria

For the fifth year in succession not a single case of this disease occurred in the district. This is a cause of satisfaction and is proof of the effectiveness of immunisation. The number of children who had

completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1953 is:

Under 5	...	...	...	...	882
5 - 15	...	...	...	...	2637

Intensive propaganda is maintained to persuade parents to make use of this valuable service.

The Durham County Council are responsible for Diphtheria Immunisation, which is done by private doctors and at County Council Clinics.

The number of children immunised during 1953 was:

Under 1 year of age	...	20	Age 8 years	...	4
Age 1 year	...	157	Age 9 years	...	—
Age 2 years	...	42	Age 10 years	...	—
Age 3 years	...	5	Age 11 years	...	—
Age 4 years	...	6	Age 12 years	...	—
Age 5 years	...	8	Age 13 years	...	—
Age 6 years	...	7	Age 14 years	...	—
Age 7 years	...	2			
Under 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	230
Between 5 - 15 years of age	...	...	...	...	21
Reinforcing injections given to children aged 0 - 15 years	...				174

Scarlet Fever

The policy of home treatment of this disease has continued where satisfactory isolation arrangements were possible. When hospital isolation has been considered necessary it has always been possible to secure the patients' admission to Sheriff Hill Hospital. Terminal disinfection has been carried out in all cases of this disease.

Poliomyelitis

One non-paralytic case was confirmed in the Marley Hill Ward.

Dysentery

All cases were of the milder Sonné bacterial type. Twenty-four cases were notified; twenty-one of these cases were in the Dunston Ward.

Food Poisoning

Outbreaks, nil. Single cases, 8. Agent identified; Staphylococcus aureous, 2; Salm. Typhimunium, 5; Salm. Bareilly, 1; cause unknown, nil—Total, 8.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1953.

DISEASE	Total Cases notified	AGE GROUPS.							Cases admitted to hospital
		Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 and over	
Scarlet Fever	50		8	10	22	9	1		22
Whooping Cough	109	13	25	40	30	1			1
Acute Poliomyelitis...	1						1		1
Measles	306	11	80	97	112	3		1	2
Diphtheria									
Chicken Pox	11	1	1	4	5				
Totals	477	25	114	151	169	13	2	1	26

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1953

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Un'r 5	5 - 14	15-14	45 -64	65 & over	Age un-kn'n	Cases admitted to Hos.
Acute Pneumonia	16	2	1	4	6	3		1
Dysentery	24	10	7	7				
Smallpox								
Acute Encephalitis								
Enteric or Typhoid Fever...								
Paratyphoid Fevers...								
Erysipelas	3							
Meningococcal Infection ..					3			
Food Poisoning	8	1	3	3				1
Puerperal Infection ..	2			2				
Ophthalmia Neonotorum ...	2	2						
Malaria	—							
Totals	55	15	11	16	9	3		2

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1953.

Diseases.	MONTHS.												Totals	WARDS			
	Jan'y	Feb'y	March	April	May	June	July	Aug't	Sept.	Oct'er	Nov'r	Dec'r		Dunston	Whick'm	Swalwell	Mar. Hill
Scarlet Fever ...	5	5			1	4	8	2	9	2	6	8	50	42	3	3	2
Whooping Cough ...			1		5	6	40	34	18	2		3	109	33	9	38	29
Acute Poliomyelitis							1						1				1
Measles ...	146	54	61	22	14	1	4	4					306	161	59	16	70
Diphtheria ...																	
Chicken Pox ...	8	1		2									11	9			2
Acute Pneumonia ...		3	3	2			2				4	2	16	15		1	
Dysentery ...		1	5	9	1	1	4			1	1	1	24	21		2	1
Smallpox ...																	
Acute Encephalitis																	
Enteric or Typhoid F																	
Paratyphoid Fevers																	
Erysipelas ...					1		1	1					3	1	1		1
Meningococcal Inf'n																	
Food Poisoning ...			3	1					4				7	6		2	
Puerperal Pyrexia..						1				1			2	2			
Ophthalmia Neon'm			1			1							2	2			
Malaria ...																	
Totals	159	64	74	35	22	14	60	41	20	6	11	14	532	292	72	62	106

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 43 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 3 of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified. The detailed figures are tabulated in tables A and B.

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, with regard to the employment of tuberculosis persons in dairies, etc., nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Table A. Tuberculosis. Cases notified during 1953.

	Total	Dunston	Whic'ham	Swalwell	Mar. Hill
Respiratory ...	43	21	11	7	4
Non-Respiratory .	3	2	-	1	-
Total	46	23	11	8	4

Table B. New Cases (including inward Transfers) and Mortality during 1953.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	0	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	7	17	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	2	9	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	3	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	16	27	3	—	1	—	—	—

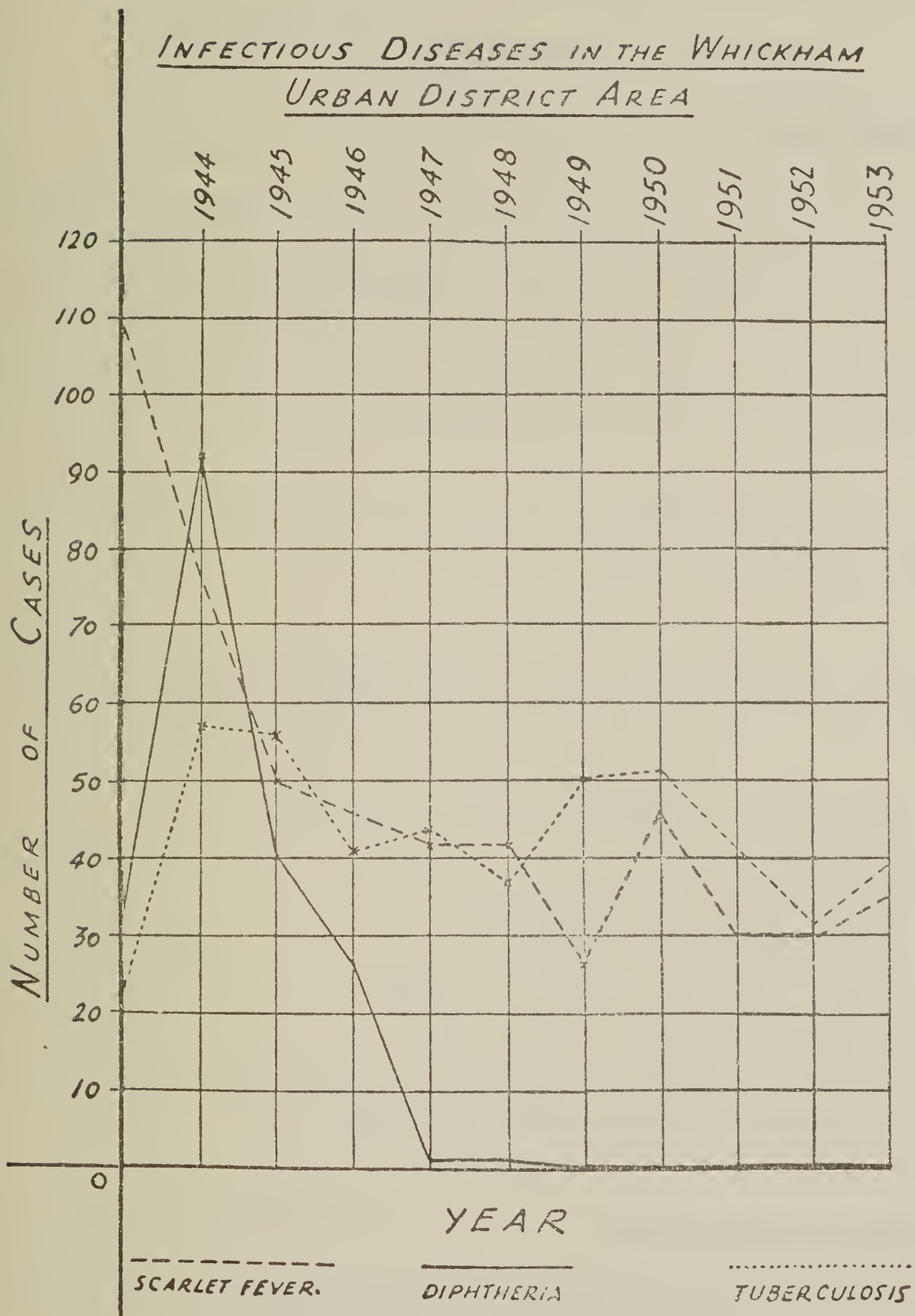
Table C

Sex	No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commencement of year.		No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at end of year 1953	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Male ...	62	5	73	8
Female ...	56	9	81	9
Totals	118	14	154	17

Table D—Removals from Register during 1953.

Reasons.	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Died ...	1	1	—	—	—
Diagnosis not confirmed	1	1	—	—	—
Removed from district ...	4	3	1	—	—
Recovered	1	—	1	—	—
Totals	7	5	2	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE WHICKHAM URBAN DISTRICT AREA



SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1—Water Supply

The Dunston, Swalwell and greater part of Whickham wards are supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and Marley Hill ward by the Durham County Water Board. Both supplies have proved to be of satisfactory quality and quantity. No samples were taken by the Department but both undertakings have furnished details of bacteriological examinations to which their supplies have been subjected and the results show the water to be of good, wholesome quality.

Eight samples of water were taken from wells and springs used for human consumption.

Two samples from one spring were unsatisfactory, and persons using this spring were advised of an alternative satisfactory spring.

The following additional details are given:—

Extension to water mains	2203 yds.
Houses supplied by direct mains	6834
Houses supplied by standpipe	13
Houses supplied by wells and springs	6
Population supplied by direct main	22771
Population supplied by standpipe	39
Population supplied by wells and springs	20

2—Closet Accommodation

At the end of the year there were in the area, 7,119 water closets, 4 ash closets, and 98 ashpit privies including 7 not in use.

Privy Middens

Five conversions were completed during the year, three after formal and two after informal action.

One privy midden was demolished.

Five were out of use following the closure of the properties served.

3—Public Cleansing and Salvage

The following information relating to Public Cleansing has been supplied by the Council's Surveyor.

Tons of refuse collected	...	...	...	...	...	13,358
Number of separate premises served	...	...	...	...	...	6,916
Kitchen waste salvaged	...	...	...	65 tons	5 cwts.	
Other material salvaged	...	...	...	58 tons	16¼ cwts.	

All refuse is disposed of by tipping at Dunston, Sunnyside and Byermoor.

4—Sanitary Inspection of Area

Public Health Act, 1936

Routine and on Complaint	...	...	...	...	...	638
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	1245
					—————	1883

Factories Act, 1937

Without Power	...	...	...	...	...	1
With Power	...	...	...	...	...	51
Electrical Stations and Building Works	...	...	...	...	...	6
					—————	58

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938/1950

Food Inspection	47
Hygiene of Food Premises—Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	414
					—————	461

Milk Sampling	68	
Ice Cream Sampling	10	
	<hr/>	78
Shops Acts, 1950		
Routine Health and Welfare	36	
Re-visits	3	
	<hr/>	39
Housing Acts, 1936/49		
Routine and Complaint	89	
Re-visits	236	
	<hr/>	325
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949		
Routine and on Complaint	14	
	<hr/>	14
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933		
	2	
	<hr/>	2
	<hr/>	
Total ...	2860	

Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department
during 1953

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.		Number of Informal written notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding ...	3 185 1	— 12 —	3 265 1	
Dairies and Milkshops ...	...	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	...	4	—	4	
Ashpits and Privies ...	...	9	—	7	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	...	7	—	8	
Waterclosets...	...	61	—	98	
Defective Yard Paving ...	...	6	—	12	
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	10	—	19	
	No disconnection from sewers	—	—	—	
	Other Faults ...	34	—	35	
Water Supply ...	...	20	—	22	
Cleansing of Watercourses	...	—	—	—	
Animals improperly kept	...	1	—	1	
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	2	—	2	
Vans Moved from Unlicensed Sites	...	8	—	4	
Dilapidated Dust Bins ...	...	50	3	53	
Other Nuisances	...	6	—	5	
TOTALS		407	15	539	

	Number	Remarks.
WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS		
Samples of Water taken for analysis	9	All Bacteriological
“ “ condemned as unfit for use	3	★ 47 lots of food were found to be unfit and were surrendered.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	—★	
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE		
Lots of Infectious Bedding disinfected or destroyed	5	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	48	
Schools do. do. ...	—	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or articles	—	
Convictions for do. do. ...	—	

General

325 complaints of disrepair and alleged nuisances were made to the Department and other nuisances were detected by the Sanitary Inspector whilst carrying out his duties in the district. All complaints were investigated and as a result 310 informal and 46 statutory notices were served. In addition 37 informal notices were served under the Food and Drugs Act, 1939, and 1 under the Shops Act, 1950.

During the year 2,860 inspections were made as compared with 1,842 in 1952.

Moveable Dwellings

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, three licences were issued, each for a six-month period, one licence was twice renewed for further periods of six months.

Offensive Trades

No new trades have been established. No complaints have been received in regard to the offensive trades established, i.e., one soap boiling works and one fat and tallow melting works.

5—Factories Act, 1937

Fifty-eight inspections were made during the year and three notices were served to remedy defective or insufficient sanitary accommodation. The following table gives the numbers of factories of various classes which are on the Council's Register.

PREMISES	NUMBER OF			
	Premises on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories with Mechanical power ...	67	51	3	—
2. Factories without Mechanical power ...	2	1	—	—
3. Other premises under the Act, including works building and engineering construction, but not including out-workers premises	5	6	—	—
4. Outworkers premises ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	74	58	3	—

Work Done

Sanitary accommodation cleansed/repaired 4

6—Shops Act, 1950

Thirty-nine visits were made in connection with the health and welfare provisions of the Act, and improvements were secured in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

The Council is a Shops Act authority and the shops have been generally observed in regard to half-day closing, hours of closing, Sunday trading, etc.; advice has been given where necessary. Most shops in the district close before the statutory closing hours and observe the half-day

closing requirements, although there is no fixed day. No complaints were received from tradespeople or employees.

7—Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Rodent Control

Number of properties in area	...	...	...	...	7316
Number of properties inspected	...	...	...	...	155
Number of properties inspected found to be infested with:—					
(a) Rats, major	...	...	...	...	6
minor	...	...	...	...	44
(b) Mice	...	...	...	...	81

The above infestations were all treated by the Rodent Operative. The cost was recovered from the owner or occupier as applicable. A standard charge of 2/6 was made in the case of treatments for mice.

The sewers were treated twice during the year.

Insect Pest Control

A D.D.T. powder is issued to householders, free of charge, to deal with minor infestations, mainly of cockroaches. Remedial measures are taken by this department in cases of difficulty.

Infestations of bed bugs were dealt with in three houses. Two private and one Council.

Other infestations dealt with were:—

				Private houses	Council houses
Ant	...	...	...	3	—
Woodworm	...	...	...	7	—
Cockroach	...	...	...	4	—
Flea	...	...	...	—	1
Wasp	...	...	...	2	—

Three ponds were treated as mosquito breeding grounds.

SECTION E

HOUSING AND HOUSING MANAGEMENT

The undermentioned information has been supplied by the Council's Surveyor:

Number of houses built in the area during 1953:

Houses built by private enterprise	26
Permanent houses built by Whickham U.D.C. ...	112
(All in the Whickham Ward)	
Total ...	138

Comparative figures—1938 to 1953:

Houses Built	1938	1939	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total
Whickham U.D.C.	—	73	—	—	73	80	50	68	72	54	112	546
Private Enterprise	122	43	1	12	26	8	8	9	15	17	26	287
Total	122	80	1	12	99	88	58	77	87	71	138	833

Allocations

During the year 112 new houses were let and in all 205 tenancies were allocated; in 1952 54 new houses were let and 111 tenancies were allocated; in 1951 72 new houses were let and 165 tenancies allocated.

Demand for Council Houses

The demand for housing accommodation continues, accurate figures are not available of the number of applicants at the year end, but little numerical change is anticipated.

Fellside Camp

Fellside Camp is now un-tenanted.

Slum Clearance, etc.

Demolition orders were made in respect of two individual unfit houses, both were demolished, two others were demolished by agreement.

One closing order was made.

Undertakings were accepted, respecting two unfit houses, that they be used for storage purposes only.

No slum clearance or improvement schemes were undertaken.

SECTION F

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

This district is part of a specified area in which milk of special designations only may be sold.

Dairies

There are no dairies as defined by the Milk and Dairies Reg., 1949.

Dairy Farms

The supervision of milk production at the 15 dairy farms in the district is exercised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The retail sale of loose milk has now been discontinued. Approximately 2 gallons per day of loose ungraded milk is sold for catering purposes.

All the milk for retail sale is supplied in bottles with overlapping foil caps.

Delivery vehicles are now satisfactory.

Distributors

There are 50 purveyors of milk.

During 1952 and 1953 the following annual licences for designated milks were issued:

	1953	1952
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers' Licences	8	8
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers' Supplementary Licences ...	2	2
Pasteurised Milk Dealers' Licences	10	9
Pasteurised Milk Dealers' Supplementary Licences	2	3
Sterilised Milk Dealers' Licences	40	39

One dairy farm retails accredited milk in the area.

Milk Sampling

68 samples of all milks were taken. Once again all samples submitted to the biological test were free from tubercle infection.

The pasteurising plant, from which the milk was obtained which failed the phosphatase test, has now installed new heat treatment equipment. No further trouble has been experienced.

Nine samples of graded milk failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test out of 56 submitted—16% as compared with 5% last year, and 16% in 1951.

Ungraded milk submitted to the Methylene Blue Test continued to give an unsatisfactory showing, 1 sample out of 5 submitted, 20%, failed the test, this is, however, an improvement on 1952, when 54% failed.

Milk Sampling, 1953—Results of Bacteriological Examinations

Type of Milk	No. of Samples Taken	Tests to which submitted—							
		Methylene Blue Test		B. Coli, Test		Phosphatase Test		Animal Inoculation for Tubercle bacilli	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Ungraded ...	7	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Accredited ...	6	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculin-tes'd	13	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T.(Pasteuri'd)	5	3	2	—	—	4	1	—	—
Pasteurised ..	37	28	5	—	—	35	1	1	—
Other heat-tr'td	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	68	51	10	—	—	39	2	4	—

Disease from Milk

No action was necessary under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations of 1949.

Food Sampling

The Durham County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the District and enforce the sampling provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938/50. The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department has kindly furnished the following information.

Number of samples obtained during 1953 ... 84
(all formal)

Articles purchased as under:—

1 Self Raising Flour	1 Custard Powder
1 Gravy Salt	2 Stewed Steak
1 Sweetened Cake Flour	1 Galatine
1 Orange Marmalade	2 Ginger
1 Ground Rice	1 Sago
1 Pearl Barley	1 Orange Juice
1 Dessicated Coconut	1 Pineapple Conserve
1 Blanc Mange Powder (Lemon)	1 Bilberries (Tinned)
1 Bi-carbonate of Soda	1 Cornflour
1 Table Jelly Crystals	1 Chutney
1 Shredded Beef Suet	1 Parsley (Dried)
1 Processed Peas	1 Cinnamon
1 Liquid Paraffin	1 Cream of Tartar
1 Tea	1 Milk Chocolate Wafers
1 Pepper	1 Table Jelly
2 Butter Beans	1 Baking Powder
1 Chicken Broth	1 Epsom Salts
1 Cocoa	1 Compound Cooking Fat
1 Coffee and Chicory Essence	1 Semolina
1 Pure Malt Vinegar	1 Luncheon Sausage
1 Luncheon Meat	1 Meat Paste
1 Jelly Crystals (Raspberry)	2 Sterilised Milk
1 Strawberries in Syrup	34 Milk
1 Beans in Tomato Sauce	

All samples were certified to be of genuine quality.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

The slaughter of animals for human consumption is centralised and the Urban District is supplied with meat from the Newcastle abbatoirs.

One slaughterhouse at Sunnyside is maintained for casual use for the slaughter of pigs by self-suppliers of bacon. As in previous years not a

single request was made for a carcase to be examined before consumption. Two slaughtermen's licences were issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, for a twelve months period.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered by traders after being found unfit for human consumption. Rationed goods were disposed of through trade channels in accordance with Ministry of Food instructions.

Of the remainder, some were utilised for animal feeding, the rest were disposed of on the Council refuse tip.

Tinned Goods

			Tins				Tins
Gammon	...	...	23	Plums	...	...	37
Luncheon Meat	...	...	6	Condensed Milk	...	...	12
Chopped Pork	...	...	4	Evaporated Milk	...	...	268
Corned Beef	...	...	7	Apples	...	...	73
Veal	...	...	7	Peaches	...	...	11
Steak	...	...	9	Golden Syrup	...	...	2
Baked Beans	...	...	14	Fruit	...	...	4
Chicken	...	...	7	Quinces	...	...	28
Pickles	...	...	5	Carrots	...	...	1
Tongues	...	...	7	Mincemeat	...	...	21
Minced Turkey	...	...	9	Mayonnaise	...	...	1
Pineapple	...	...	65	Currant Pudding	...	...	7
Tomatoes	...	...	18	Cereal Loaf	...	...	1
Peas	...	...	52				

Approximate weight of above foodstuffs—8 cwts.

Other Foodstuffs

			lb.	oz.			lb.	oz.
National Butter	...	...	1	4	Side Bacon	...	19	13
Gammon	...	...	1		Packet Oats	...	1	12
Beef	...	...	9	4	Mincemeat	...		3
Liver	...	...	1		Raisins	...	25	4
Ham	...	...	25	8	Coconut Ice	...	11	8
Pork	...	...	30	8	Apricots	...	14	5
Tongues	...	...	1	8	Tapioca (Packets)	...		2
Veal	...	...		8				

Ice Cream

One manufacturer discontinued production during the year, the plant did not comply with the Council's adapted standard for recording and indicating thermometers on the heat treatment apparatus.

The other manufacturer continued to supply several shops and vans. The factory is a model establishment, the product is of high bacteriological standard. All samples taken fell in grade 1 or 2.

S.14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938

There are 42 shops, 3 canteens and 6 cafes registered for the sale of ice cream.

Food Premises

Number and Classification

Cafes	...	...	...	7	Public Houses	...	...	23
Industrial Canteens	...	...	...	12	Off Licences	...	...	1
School Kitchens	...	...	...	3	Wet Fish Shops	...	...	4
Hospital Kitchens	...	...	...	2	Grocers' Shops	...	...	36
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	21	General Dealers	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	...	6	Confection'y (Sweet) Shops	...	...	18
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	12	Confection'y (Cakes) Shop	...	...	8
Halls (with Catering)	...	...	...	3	Greengrocers	...	...	14
Social Clubs	...	...	...	6	Chemists	...	...	6
								<hr/>
								Total ... 208
								<hr/>

Fried Fish Shops

These shops were registered early in the year under Sect. 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938. They have since been inspected regularly to ensure the standard then attained is maintained. One shop is unsatisfactory and action was pending at the year end.

All shops provide clean newspaper for wrapping purposes.

Cafes

Several of these premises are unsuitable, mainly due to lack of space; the food preparation and washing up accommodation suffers and is

usually sited in some pokey corner.

Occupiers are co-operative however, and it is possible to make the best of a bad job.

Industrial Canteens and School Kitchens

The standard of construction and equipment remains high. Personnel were again advised on good hygiene practice, especially washing up technique.

Hospital Kitchens

One hospital was advised on fly control measures and on food hygiene generally.

Public Houses and Social Clubs

A circular letter was sent to all brewery companies having houses in the area, drawing their attention to the existing unsatisfactory methods of glass washing and suggesting ways of improvement.

In response, washing machines were fitted at two houses, sinks with automatic bactericide detergent dispensers at five.

The attention of one company was drawn to the use of lead beer piping in three of their houses, attention was promised.

The sanitary conveniences at one hotel were improved on request, and are now satisfactory.

General

Washing Facilities

All food premises now have constant supplies of hot water.

Protection of Unwrapped Foodstuffs on display in shops

The attention of all shopkeepers affected was drawn to the danger of contamination of certain foods, i.e., cream and similar cakes, made up meats, etc.

Provision of enclosed glass cases and plastic covers as protection has since proceeded steadily.

Educational Work

In addition to talks to food handlers during visits, lectures have been given, some illustrated by the use of films. Housewives, who are of course the largest body of food handlers, formed the bulk of audiences.

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